

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 25, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, and 19-28 have been amended. The Specification and Drawings have been amended. No new matter has been added to the Claims, Specification or Drawings. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-2, 7, 9, 19-21 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,530,508 to Devine (“Devine”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,826,059 to Bosch et al. (“Bosch”). Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses such rejection. Among other reasons for Applicant’s traverse, Devine does not disclose magnets which are operable to enable the detachable connection defined by the Claims submitted in Applicant’s February 22, 2006 Response.

Nonetheless, Applicant has elected to amend the Claims to advance the prosecution of this application. Amended independent Claim 1 includes the following elements:

A magnetic tape comprising:

a pair of flexible strips being connected in a face to face relationship with one another at a plurality of spaced-apart connection areas, the connection of the flexible strips forming a unit, the unit defining a pocket positioned between each one of the connection areas, a first part of the unit being separable from a second part of the unit, each one of the connection areas:

- (a) having a plurality of regions; and
- (b) being separable along a separation line between the regions, the separation of the regions operable to separate the first part from the second part, the unit having a plurality of magnets, at least one of the magnets being housed within each one of the pockets, the magnets being spaced longitudinally along the unit in one or more rows, each of the magnets having a first side associated with a first polarity and a second side associated with a second polarity, the magnets being oriented such that: (i) the first sides of the magnets are adjacent to one of the flexible strips; and (ii) the second sides of the magnets are adjacent to the other flexible strip, the magnets being operable to provide the unit with a plurality of magnetic regions enabling the first part of the unit to be:
 - (x) magnetically attached to itself after the first part is separated from the second part; or
 - (y) magnetically attached to an object after the first part is separated from the second part.

The combination and Devine and Bosch does not disclose such elements of amended Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 19 includes the following elements:

A flexible securing device comprising:

a plurality of sides;

a plurality of connectors connecting the sides together at a plurality of flexible connection regions, the connected sides forming an assembly having a designated length, the assembly defining a plurality of pockets, each one of the pockets being positioned between a plurality of the flexible connection regions, the assembly being flexible between: (a) a first position in which the assembly has a non-loop configuration; and (b) a second position in which the assembly has a loop configuration, the assembly being separable into:

- (a) a reservable part having a plurality of the flexible connection regions; and
- (b) a retrievable part having a plurality of flexible connection regions, each one of the flexible connection regions of the assembly: (i) having a plurality of areas; and (ii) being separable along a separation line between the areas, the separation of a plurality of the areas operable to separate the reservable part of the assembly from the retrievable part of the assembly, the assembly having: a plurality of magnetic members, each one of the magnetic members having a positive polarity side and a negative polarity side, the magnetic members being positioned within the pockets so that:
 - (x) the positive polarity sides are adjacent to one of the sides of the assembly ;
 - (y) the negative polarity sides are adjacent to another one of the sides of the assembly; and
 - (z) the retrievable part of the assembly is: (i) magnetically attachable to itself after the retrievable part is separated from the reservable part; or (ii) magnetically attachable to an object after the retrievable part is separated from the reservable part.

The combination and Devine and Bosch does not disclose such elements of amended Claim 19.

Amended independent Claim 24 includes the following elements:

A roll of a flexible device, the roll comprising:

a first side;

a second side;

a plurality of connectors connecting the first side to the second side at a plurality of spaced-apart connection regions, the connection of the first side to the second side forming an assembly configurable in a roll form, the assembly having a designated length, the assembly defining a space positioned between each one of the connection regions, part of the length of the assembly being separable from another part of the assembly, the separable part defining one or more of the spaces; and

a plurality of magnetic members, at least one of the magnetic members being positioned within each one of the spaces of the assembly, the separable part having one or more of the magnetic members, the separable part being magnetically attachable to:

- (a) itself after the separable part is separated from the assembly; or
- (b) an object after the separable part is separated from the assembly.

The combination and Devine and Bosch does not disclose such elements of amended Claim 24.

Applicant has amended the Specification and Drawings to describe the elements included in the Claims submitted herewith. Support for such amendments can be found throughout the Specification, Drawings and Claims as filed, including, but not limited to, Lines 14-33 of Page 3 of the Specification as filed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims submitted herewith are in condition for allowance. An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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